Rangiya-Rangapara North has been completed and detailed estimate sanctioned.

(c) The work of doubling between New Bongaigaon-Guwahati is not sanctioned.

New railway zone in Kerala

2083. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received any representation from the Kerala Government for a new railway zone in the State; and

(b) if so, what is the response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) New Railway Zones are set up keeping in view the factors like size, workload accessibility, traffic pattern and other operational/administrative requirements etc. consistent with the needs of economy and efficiency and not on regional considerations. The proposal for creation of new Zone, in Kerala, when examined in the light of these considerations, has not been found feasible.

Crime in trains

†2084. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that incident of looting and violence with passengers travelling in long distance trains are increasing;

(b) whether his Ministry in formulating any scheme to spend more amount on this, in order to tigthen security in the trains;

(c) the main cause of the looting and violence, etc. in the trains; and

(d) whether Government are contemplating to deploy lady Police in the coaches reserved for ladies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) No, Sir. there has been a decline in the number of incidents of

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

crimes reported in trains over Indian Railways during the year 2006 as compared to the previous year 2005.

During the year 2006, in all 7,505 cases of crime were reported in trains as against 7,980 such cases reported during the previous year *i.e.* 2005.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Poverty, unemployment and loopholes in criminal justice system are the main socio-economic factors responsible for crime whether it is in the trains or in the hinter land.

(d) To prevent such offences Special Squads have been constituted in some Zonal Railways with women ticket checking staff (wherever available), women staff of Railway Protection Force and/or Government Railway Police. The ladies compartments in affected sections are also being escorted by armed police personnel during night. A total number of 63,282 male persons found travelling in ladies compartments were apprehended and prosecuted by Railway Protection Force under the Railways Act during the year 2006.

Upgradation of stations

2085. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether with a view to improving the facilities at the railway stations, the Centre has embarked on a plan to modernize and upgrade the stations to world class; and

(b) if so, the details in the this regard, with projected cost, source of funding and targeted schedule for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) So far 19 stations have been selected for developing them as World Class Station. These developments are planned on Public Private Partnership basis.

Doubling of Meerut-Tapsi rail track

2086. SHRI AMIR ALAM KHAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal for doubling of Meerut-Tapsi railway track;